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Dated: February 12, 2007

Signature: _____

(Lor/Sims)

Docket No.: 223002010005
Client Reference No.: PP00100.209

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Application No.: 09/884,456

Filed: June 18, 2001

Art Unit: 1656

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: W. Moore

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.114)

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the final Office Action dated January 12, 2006, and the Notice of Appeal filed on July 11, 2006, with a due date of September 11, 2006. A five-month petition for extension of time is filed herewith thereby extending the deadline to February 11, 2007. This Response accompanies a Request for Continued Examination filed herewith. February 11, 2007 being a Sunday, this response is timely filed on February 12, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.